

ANNULOPLASTY RINGS AND METHODS FOR REPAIRING CARDIAC VALVES

Abstract of the Disclosure

Implantable devices and methods for the repair of a defective cardiac valve are provided. The implantable devices include an annuloplasty ring and a restraining or support structure or mechanism. The annuloplasty ring functions to reestablish the normal size and shape of the annulus bringing the leaflet in proximity to each other. The restraining structure functions to restrain the abnormal motion of at least a portion of the valve being repaired. The restraining structure may include at least one restraining member across the interior of the circumference of the ring in a configuration consisting of a primary member to which secondary members are attached or one where all members traverse the ring. Kits for using the devices and practicing the methods of the invention are also provided.